

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 11888 061633Z  
ACTION INR-05

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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 11888

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS CIA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, IS, RO  
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENT:  
FALLOUT FROM PACEPA DEFECTION

1. CHARGE HAD CURIOUS ENCOUNTER AT SOCIAL FUNCTION  
LAST EVENING (SEPT. 5) WITH ROMANIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE  
STATION CHIEF IRINOIU, WHICH IS REPORTED IN SOME DETAIL  
BELOW BECAUSE OF ITS INSIGHTS ON IRINOIU'S REACTIONS TO  
THE PACEPA DEFECTION.

2. CONVERSATION GOT OFF TO A SHAKY START BY EFFORT TO  
SOLICIT IRINOIU'S VIEWS ON ABRUPT DISMISSAL YESTERDAY  
OF HIS BOSS, MINISTER OF SECURITY TEODOR COMAN. IRINOIU  
APPEARED VISIBLY SHOCKED BY THIS NEWS. EITHER HE IS A  
CONSUMATE ACTOR OR THIS WAS THE FIRST WORD HE HAD OF  
COMAN'S DEMISE. HE CLOSELY QUESTIONED CHARGE ON WHETHER  
HE HAD NOT CONFUSED TEODOR COMAN WITH MINISTER OF  
DEFENSE ION COMAN WHO, AS HE PUT IT, "APPEARS TO BE OUT  
OF ACTION." IRINOIU WAS ASSURED THERE WAS NO CONFUSION.  
IT HAD HAPPENED AND HAD BEEN BROADCAST ON THE 6:00 P.M.  
BBC NEWS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 11888 061633Z

3. AT THIS POINT IRINOIU BECAME VERY AGITATED AND  
EXTREMELY EMOTIONAL. HE PROTESTED AT LENGTH THAT HE  
DID NOT KNOW PACEPA, THAT HE HAD ONLY MET HIM ONCE OR  
TWICE, THAT HE HAD NEVER WORKED WITH HIM, ETC. HE THEN  
LAUNCHED INTO A VIOLENT ATTACK ON PUNGAN WHO HE IMPLIED  
WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH PACEPA. AT ONE POINT HE

OPENLY ALLEGED THAT PUNGAN HAD BENEFITTED FINANCIALLY FROM THE FOKKER DEAL WHICH HE CLAIMED HAD BEEN PACEPA'S DOWNFALL (I.E., PACEPA AND, IN HIS TELLING, PUNGAN HAD BOTH BILKED THE GOI OF A LARGE SUM OF HARD CURRENCY WHICH WAS TO BE USED IN SETTING UP THE FOKKER JOINT VENTURE).

4. HIS NEXT TARGET WAS STEFAN ANDREI. HE IMPLIED THAT CEAUSESCU KNEW ANDREI WAS ALSO SOMEHOW LINKED WITH THE PACEPA AFFAIR AND WITH "FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE GROUPS." HE FORECAST ANDREI'S DEPARTURE FROM THE SCENE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. FINALLY, HE ASKED SEVERAL LEADING QUESTIONS ABOUT AMBASSADOR NICOLAE'S PERFORMANCE IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD NICOLAE HAD NOT MEASURED UP AND WAS BEING REMOVED. HE ALSO INSINUATED THAT SOMEHOW NICOLAE HAD BEEN COMPROMISED IN THE US, BUT OFFERED NO DETAILS IN SUBSTANTIATION.

6. COMMENT: IRINOIU WAS NOT DRUNK, JUST DEAD SCARED. HE SAID HE IS LEAVING FOR HOME LATER THIS WEEK "ON LEAVE" AND HOPED TO RETURN TO TEL AVIV BY NOVEMBER. HE SAID HIS WIFE IS THE DAUGHTER OF A ROMANIAN GENERAL (NO ONE YOU KNOW) AND HE HAD BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL PERMISSION TO EXTEND HIS LEAVE SO THAT HE AND HIS WIFE COULD PROLONG THEIR STAY WITH HER FATHER (MY STRONG SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 11888 061633Z

IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY A COVER STORY FOR IRINOIU'S RECALL. I KNOW THAT MRS. IRINOIU ALREADY SPENDS MOST OF HER TIME IN ROMANIA WITH HER FATHER).

7. I AM TOO FAR REMOVED FROM THE ROMANIAN SCENE TO OFFER ANY WORTHWHILE SPECULATION AS TO WHY IRINOIU CHOSE ME TO VENTILATE SUCH DANGEROUS (FOR HIM) ALLEGATIONS AND INSINUATIONS ABOUT ANDREI, PUNGAN AND NICOLAE. PERHAPS HE KNOWS SOMETHING WE DON'T, OR PERHAPS HE IS SIMPLY A TRAGIC REFLECTION OF THE FRANTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT OF HIS SENIOR RANK SUFFERS DURING A PURGE. WHATEVER THE REASON, HE GAVE NO SIGNAL WHATSOEVER THAT HE ENTERTAINED ANY THOUGHTS OF NOT RETURNING HOME. HE ASKED ME TO TELL CIA THIS WAS A "DIRTY TRICK WHICH WE WILL SURVIVE." I TOLD HIM I WAS SURE ROMANIA WOULD, BUT I ASSUMED HE WAS SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT PACEPA WAS NOT THE LAST ROMANIAN WHO WILL FIND A WAY TO BAIL OUT OF PARADISE. VIETS

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION CO-ORDINATED WITH S/S-O MR. MC CALLIE.

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